In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A computer system, comprising:
        a plurality of backup storage systems including at least first and second backup storage systems to each backup information stored on at least one client; and
        at least one user interface, coupled to at least the first and second backup storage systems, to receive information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;
        wherein the plurality of backup storage systems includes a third backup storage system to backup information stored on at least one client, the third backup storage system being coupled to the at least one user interface; and
        the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first and second backup storage systems and the at least one user interface, the at least one domain excluding the third backup storage system so that the at least one user interface is not authorized to receive information related to backup activities of the third backup storage system.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 1, wherein:
        at least one of the first and second backup storage systems and the at least one user interface is a domain master; and
        the domain master stores at least one first identifier, each first identifier identifying a corresponding one of a backup storage system and a user interface in the at least one domain.

4.   (Original) The computer system of claim 3, wherein the domain master stores at least one second identifier to identify at least one user authorized to access the information related to the backup activities of any backup storage system included in the at least one domain.

5.   (Original) The computer system of claim 3, wherein:

each one of the first and second backup storage systems includes a controller to transmit the information related to the backup activities of the one of the first and second backup storage systems, each controller transmitting the information relating to the backup activities only within the at least one domain.

6.   (Original) The computer system of claim 5, wherein the domain master authorizes each controller to transmit the information relating to the backup activities only within the at least one domain.

7.   (Previously Presented) In a computer system including at least first and second backup storage systems to each backup information stored on at least one client, and at least one user interface coupled to the first and second backup storage systems, a method comprising an act of:

receiving, at the at least one user interface, information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;

wherein the computer system further includes a third backup storage system to backup information stored on at least one client, the third backup storage system being coupled to the at least one user interface, the computer system further including at least one domain that includes at least the first and second backup storage systems and the at least one user interface and excludes the third backup storage system; and

wherein the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the at least one user interface, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the at least one user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the third backup storage system.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising an act of:

transmitting, from each of the first and second backup storage systems to the at least one user interface, the information related to the backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems.

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9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the act of transmitting the
information includes an act of transmitting the information relating to the backup activities of the
first and second backup storage systems only within the at least one domain, so that the first and
second backup storage systems do not transmit the information related to the backup activities to
the third backup storage system.

11.   (Allowed) In a computer system including at least first and second backup storage
systems to each backup information stored on at least one client, and at least one user interface
coupled to the first and second backup storage systems, a method comprising an act of:

        receiving, at the at least one user interface, information related to backup activities of the
first and second backup storage systems, wherein the act of receiving information comprises an
act of:

                (a) determining if a user of the at least one user interface is authorized to access
information related to the backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems, and
when it is determined in the act (a) that the user is authorized to access the information, the act of
receiving information further comprises acts of;

                (b) allowing the user to select, via the at least one user interface, a report on
information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;

                (c) transmitting a request from the at least one user interface for information
related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems based on the
report selected by the user;

                (d) receiving the request at the first and second backup storage systems; and

                (e) determining if the at least one user interface is authorized to receive
information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;
and

                when it is determined in the act (e) that the at least one user interface is authorized
to receive the information related to backup activities of the first and second backup
storage systems, the act of receiving information further comprises acts of:

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(f) transmitting the information related to backup activities from the first and

second backup storage systems to the at least one user interface; and

(g) making the transmitted information available to the user via the at least one

user interface.

12.   (Previously Presented) In a computer system including at least one user interface and at

least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, a method

comprising an act of:

receiving information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage

system at the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting

information between the at least one backup storage system and the at least one user interface;

wherein:

the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a

second backup storage system;

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup

storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage

system; and

the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the at least one user

interface, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the

at least one domain, so that the at least one user interface does not receive information related to

backup activities of the second backup storage system.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the act of receiving information includes an

act of receiving the information related to the backup activities of the at least one backup storage

system at the at least one user interface via a network.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one backup storage system

includes a first backup storage system, and wherein the act of receiving information includes acts

of:

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receiving the information related to backup activities of the first backup storage system at a second backup storage system; and

receiving the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system at the at least one user interface via the second backup storage system.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising an act of:

transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the at least one backup storage system to the at least one user interface.

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Previously Presented) A user interface for use in a computer system having at least one backup storage system, the at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, the user interface comprising:

at least one controller, to be coupled to the at least one backup storage system, to receive information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup storage system and the user interface; wherein:

the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system;

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

the controller receives only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system.

18.   (Original) The user interface of claim 17 wherein the path includes an open network; and

wherein the at least one controller receives the information related to the backup activities of the at least one backup storage system over the open network.

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19.   (Original) The user interface of claim 17, wherein the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system, the second backup storage system receives the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system; and

wherein the at least one controller receives the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system via the second backup storage system.

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Original) The user interface of claim 17, in combination with the at least one backup storage system and the path.

22.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium encoded with a program for execution on a computer system that includes at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, the program, when executed on the computer system, performing a method comprising an act of:

receiving information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system at the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup storage system and the at least one user interface; wherein:

the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system;

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the at least one user interface, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the at least one user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system.

23.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the act of receiving
information includes an act of receiving the information related to the backup activities of the at
least one backup storage system at the at least one user interface via a network.

24.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the at least one backup
storage system includes a first backup storage system, and wherein the act of receiving
information includes acts of:

        receiving the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage
system at a second backup storage system; and

        receiving the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage
system at the at least one user interface via the second backup storage system.

25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Currently Amended) In a computer system having at least first and second backup
storage systems to each store backup data from at least one client, ~~the at least first and second~~
~~backup storage systems storing different backup data,~~ a method comprising an act of:

        receiving information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system at
the first backup storage system<u>;</u>

        <u>wherein at least some of the backup data which is stored on the second backup storage</u>
<u>system is not stored on the first backup storage system</u>.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising an act of:

        transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the second backup storage
system from the second backup storage system to the first backup storage system.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the computer system includes:

        a third backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client; and

        at least one domain that includes at least the first and second backup storage systems and
excludes the third backup storage system,

and wherein the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the first backup storage system, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the first backup storage system does not receive information related to backup activities of the third backup storage system.

29.   (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the act of transmitting the information includes an act of transmitting the information relating to the backup activities of the second backup storage system only within the at least one domain, so that the second backup storage system does not transmit the information related to the backup activities of the second backup storage system to the third backup storage system.

30.   (Currently Amended) A first backup storage system to store backup data from at least one first client, the first backup storage system for use in a computer system having a second backup storage system to store backup data from at least one second client, the first backup storage system comprising:

a first controller, coupled to the second backup storage system, to receive information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system;

wherein at least some of the backup data which is stored on the second backup storage system is not stored on the first backup storage system.

31.   (Original) The first backup storage system of claim 30, wherein the computer system includes a third backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client and at least one domain that includes at least the first and second backup storage systems and excludes the third backup storage system; and

wherein the first controller receives only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the first backup storage system does not receive information related to backup activities of the third backup storage system.

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32. (Original) The first backup storage system of claim 31, wherein the first backup storage system is a domain master which stores at least one first identifier to identify each backup storage system in the at least one domain.

33. (Original) The first backup storage system of claim 32, wherein the domain master stores at least one second identifier to identify at least one user authorized to access the information related to backup activities of the backup storage systems in the at least one domain.

34. (Original) The first backup storage system of claim 32, in combination with the second backup storage system.

35. (Original) The combination of claim 34, wherein the second backup storage system includes a second controller to transmit the information related to the backup activities of the second backup storage system only within the at least one domain.

36. (Original) The combination of claim 35, wherein the domain master authorizes the second controller to transmit the information relating to backup activities only within the at least one domain.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a program for execution on a computer system that includes first and second backup storage systems coupled together, the first and second backup storage systems each storing backup data from at least one client, the at least first and second backup storage systems storing different backup data, the program, when executed on the computer system, performing a method comprising an act of:

transferring information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system between the second backup storage system and the first backup storage system;

wherein at least some of the backup data which is stored on the second backup storage system is not stored on the first backup storage system.

38. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein the computer system further includes a third backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, and at least one domain that includes at least the first and second backup storage systems and excludes the third backup storage system; and

wherein the act of transferring information includes an act of receiving, at the first backup storage system, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the first backup storage system does not receive information related to backup activities of the third backup storage system.

39. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein the act of transferring the information includes an act of transmitting, from the second backup storage system, the information relating to the backup activities of the second backup storage system only within the at least one domain, so that the second backup storage system does not transmit the information related to the backup activities of the second backup storage system to the third backup storage system.

40. (Previously Presented) In a computer system having at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, a method comprising an act of:

transmitting information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system to the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup system and the at least one user interface;

wherein the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system, wherein the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

wherein the act of transmitting information includes an act of transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system within the at least one domain, so that the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system is not transmitted to the second backup storage system.

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41.   (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein the act of transmitting information includes an act of transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the at least one backup storage system to the at least one user interface via a network.

42.   (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system, and wherein the act of transmitting information includes acts of:

        transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system to a second backup storage system; and

        transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system from the second backup storage system to the at least one user interface.

43.   (Canceled)

44.   (Previously Presented) A first backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, the first backup storage system for use in a computer system having at least one user interface, the first backup storage system comprising:

        at least one controller to transmit information related to backup activities of the first backup storage system to the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface;

        wherein the computer system includes a second backup storage system, and at least one domain that includes the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

        wherein the at least one controller transmits the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system only within the at least one domain, so that the at least one controller does not transmit the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system to the second backup storage system.

45.   (Original) The first backup storage system of claim 44, wherein the path includes an open network, and wherein the at least one controller transmits the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system over the open network.

46.   (Canceled)

47.   (Original) The first backup storage system of claim 44, in combination with the at least one user interface and the path.

48.   (Original) The first backup storage system of claim 44, wherein the computer system includes a second backup storage system; and

wherein the at least one controller transmits the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system to the at least one user interface via the second backup storage system.

49.   (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium encoded with a program for execution on a computer system that includes at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store data from at least one client, the program, when executed on the computer system, performing a method comprising an act of:

transmitting information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system to the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup system and the at least one user interface;

wherein the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system, wherein the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

wherein the act of transmitting information includes an act of transmitting the information related to backup activities of the first backup storage system only within the at least one domain, so that the first backup storage system does not transmit the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system to the second backup storage system.

50.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 49, wherein the act of transmitting information includes an act of transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the at least one backup storage system to the at least one user interface via a network.

51.   (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 49, wherein the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system, and wherein the act of transmitting information includes acts of:

transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system via a second backup storage system to the at least one user interface.

52.   (Canceled)

53.   (Canceled)

54.   (Canceled)

55.   (Canceled)

56.   (Canceled)

57.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the information received at the first backup storage system is transmitted from the second backup storage system.

58.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the information received at the first backup storage system identifies the second backup storage system as the backup storage system to which the information relates.

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